

## THE ALMA RECORD

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

## NO NEED FOR WOMEN'S PARTY

The Women's Party have small cause for complaint that President Harding declined to attend the dedication of their Washington headquarters. Their organization is admittedly political. Neither the Republican nor Democratic parties were good enough for them, so they formed a party of their own rather than affiliate with either of the two. Doubtless the Women's Party will have candidates in the field at the next election who will do their best to beat all their opponents. There was no more reason for a Republican President to attend the dedicatory ceremonies than for him to attend a Democratic pow-wow or a gathering of Socialists.

Instead of being present in person at their gathering, President Harding sent the ladies a letter in which he rejoiced at the enfranchisement of the women of the United States and wished "that the larger opportunity for American womanhood will be marked by the highest ideals, lofty patriotism, noble inspirations, and great good to our common country." Mr. Harding is President of all the people, and his letter was suitable for reading at a gathering of any group of citizens.

It is fortunate for our country's welfare that by far the great majority of our women voters have no sympathy with sex distinctions when it comes to casting the ballot. Political lines should be drawn on issues far removed from such subjects—issues in which men and women have an equal interest. The roster of the what may be termed the charter members of the Woman's Party contains names of women whose prominence is due to agitation extending over a period of years. Constructive leadership has not marked their careers in the public eye. One of them achieved notoriety because she was a delegate to the last Democratic national convention and had the distinction of nominating former Ambassador Davis as the party's standard bearer. But Democracy has lost interest for her, and she has joined the renegades from the Republican ranks in forming the new political party.

What the platform of the Women's Party may be remains to be seen. A communication received from loyal women of Massachusetts charged its leaders with being communistic. However much of truth there may be in that indictment, it is certain that the dedication of the newly opened political headquarters was no proper place for a Republican President, and the patriotic women of the country will rejoice that Mr. Harding remained in the White House.

## DO SOMETHING!

A most shocking and revolting thing occurred in this county last week. It took the form of a cold-blooded, premeditated murder, committed by a boy under fourteen years of age, and a calm plan to dispose of the body of the victim in the river to hide the evidence.

This community never before has been shocked by close touch with so revolting a thing, and yet a perusal of the daily papers reveals the fact that similar revolting things are going on in different parts of the country all of the time. Scarcely a day goes by without some terrible crime committed by a young person being recorded. This fact should make parents very thoughtful in regard to the bringing up of their children. There should be cultivated a wholesome respect for authority, and it is the plain duty of parents to know where their children are, with whom they are associating, and what habits they are forming.

There is a very foolish idea abroad that children should be allowed to come up in their own way, a sort of self-determination as it were. But nothing could possibly be more dangerous to American citizenship, because the child mind is immature and inexperienced, hence should be directed in right channels. The fact that crime has increased four hundred per cent in ten years is one of the greatest danger signals that we have ever witnessed. Parents should wake up to the danger and join hands for better citizenship by more close supervision and the cultivation of better habits in the children who are to be the men and women of the next decade.

Parents, there are our children. They are the future American citizens. Their ideals will be high or low as we direct them. Our responsibility is great and we must take the consequences of our own actions. What shall we do about it?

## STEADILY IMPROVING

People who expected to see the United States resume its normal status following the war were disappointed.

Those who pinned their hopes to a slow but gradual readjustment are witnessing the vindication of their judgment.

Neither wages nor prices will ever go back to the pre-war level. Men who have enjoyed a long taste of high wages and easy work will not willingly return to long hours and grueling toil and poor pay. Manufacturers and dealers who have reveled in sky profits will fight shy of the old system of slim pickings and few of them.

That is human nature, and nature makes all laws and regulates all things.

It was, however, manifestly impossible to maintain wages and profits at the sky peak of war days. Abnormality may prevail for a period, but in the end it must give way to rational thought and action.

Prices of necessities, and of even luxuries, have been steadily declining for a long time. The same is true of labor, and of all the raw materials that go into the construction or production of articles of daily use.

The fall has been slow but gradual, and some time must still lapse before we reach that level which will insure the return of a full measure of prosperity to the country.

The situation, however, is fairly satisfactory and full of promise, and the future is bright to those who can see. Hard labor, conscientious cooperation and rigid economy are the remedies needed.

Hot air finds quick lodgment in empty heads.

## Where Your Taxes Go

How Uncle Sam Spends Your Money in Conducting Your Business

By EDWARD G. LOWRY

Author "Washington Close-Up," "Banks and Financial Systems," etc. Contributor Political and Economic Articles to Leading Periodicals and a Writer of Recognized Authority on the National Government's Business Methods.

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## XXV.

## UP TO YOU AND CONGRESS

At the present time it would be a misnomer to speak of the national government having a personnel system at all. The reform accomplished by the establishment of the civil service commission and the merit system has touched but one phase of the personnel problem, and that but partially—entrance into the government service. Practically nothing has been done in the way of erecting the government services into careers that will attract and retain efficient men. Bad as conditions were in this respect before the war, they have become many times worse during and since that event.

The correction of these evils presents a problem of great complexity. It cannot be achieved by a half-hearted or half-way tinkering with the present system. Nothing but a thorough overhauling of the whole personnel system and the establishment of a new system covering all phases of the question and embodying the most approved principles of personnel administration will meet the needs of the situation. Fortunately a beginning has been made in this direction. It at least furnishes a starting point for action looking to the giving to the government of the personnel system that it must have if government work is to be even measurably well done.

The situation now is that there is an insistent demand on the part of the public that the whole administration of the national government be put upon a more efficient basis, and that the present waste of public funds, resulting from present defective organization and methods, shall cease; that congress is alive to this demand and has made a start toward meeting it; that the fundamental defects in the existing system are well known; and that the direction efforts looking to reform should take are clearly established. The responsibility is thus squarely up to congress.

If the problem that confronts congress in securing this laudable end is analyzed it will be found that the fundamental reforms are: The reform by congress itself of its own organization and methods of procedure; the entire revision of the present system under which the financial needs of the government are determined and provided; the setting up of an agency and procedure through which the expenditure of public funds may be properly controlled and congress be given that information regarding such expenditures which it must have if it is to assure itself that its agents, the administrative services, are properly performing their duties, and to act intelligently in respect to the future grant of funds; the provision of an organ through which the President may in fact, as well as in name, discharge his duties as head of the administration; the reorganization of the administrative branch of the government so as to eliminate the present widespread overlapping of jurisdictions and functions and indefensible duplication of services, organization, plant and work; and the complete reworking of the present system under which the personnel required to man the governmental plant is secured, compensated, promoted, assigned to particular tasks and controlled, to the end that not only justice will be done to the several classes of governmental employees, but that a personnel system will be established that will insure a maximum of efficiency in the actual conduct of public affairs.

A study of action actually had or now under way shows that steps have been taken toward the accomplishment of each of these fundamental reforms. The introduction of a budget system is a long step forward.

I don't mean in the least to give the impression that all private business is perfectly run and that only government business is badly managed, or that all the efficient people are in private employ and only inefficient in the public service. Neither of those conditions exists.

In the common phrase, you have got to hand it to Alexander Hamilton for devising a scheme that has stood up since revolutionary days. It has not been fundamentally altered since his day. There has been no readjustment of salaries in the departmental service for sixty years. That implies a certain loyalty and faithfulness on the part of the workers.

My only desire is to disclose the present condition of government employment; that good men are leaving and that the present tendency, if not checked, will inevitably drive out of the service all of the efficient and leave only the mediocre and incompetent. I have said little myself, but have chosen to let the men working for the government tell the story. Every assertion of fact in these articles comes from some responsible source or authority within the service. I am not making a criticism or attack from the outside, but merely serving as a mouthpiece for your hired men.

After a man by dint of living a virtuous and industrious life has worked up to a position of a little influence in the community he has to use it all getting jobs for some of his friends and getting others out of trouble with the police court.—Ohio State Journal.

## Five Minute Chats on Our Presidents

By JAMES MORGAN

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## THE FIRST DARK HORSE

1795—Nov. 2, James Knox Polk born in Mecklenburg County, N. C.

1823-5—Member Tennessee legislature.

1825-39—Member of congress.

1839-41—Governor of Tennessee.

1844—Nominated for president by the Democrats and elected.

1845—March 4, inaugurated eleventh president, aged forty-nine.

1846—July 17, Oregon question settled.

1846-7—The Mexican war.

1848—Greatest territorial conquest in American history.

1849—June 15, death of Polk, aged fifty-three.

JAMES KNOX POLK was the first dark horse to win the presidential race, and his figure remains among the pale shadows in the procession of presidents across the pages of history. When he was yet a boy the family of James K. Polk moved from North Carolina to Tennessee, where he was too frail for frontier farming and was put to work behind the counter of a crossroads store. After a time in that excellent preparatory school of life he returned to his native state to enter college, and he graduated from the University of North Carolina.

Becoming a country lawyer, he was sent to the Tennessee legislature; married Sarah Childress, daughter of a well-to-do man of business, and went to congress for 14 years, in the course of which he became first the Jackson leader of the house and finally speaker. Next he took his seat as governor of Tennessee for a term. After having been twice defeated in his effort to obtain a second election to the governorship, those defeats were immediately



James K. Polk.

ately crowned with the Democratic nomination for president.

It was in the first year of the telegraph, and when the name of Clay was ticked off as the nominee of the Whig convention at Baltimore those wisecracks of Washington who still regarded Morse as an impostor said that the trick was easy, since anyone could have guessed who the Whig nominee would be. Three weeks afterward, when the inventor at the capital spelled out the name of Polk as the Democratic nominee the doubting Thomases were convinced that he was a fraud. They scoffed at such an absurdity and were not persuaded of the truth until the arrival of a train from Baltimore.

The obscurity of "Jim" Polk, which that smug, unsullied, uninspired little man of respectable abilities had preserved on the eminence of the speaker's chair, was deepened by the shining fame of Van Buren, whom he had displaced at the convention, and of Clay, against whom he was matched before the people. Those two statesmen had taken it for granted that they were to be the champions of their respective parties. History suspects that they concocted in a friendly visit two letters which appeared suspiciously close together and which were suspiciously alike in discarding the annexation of Texas at risk of war with Mexico.

Van Buren stood by his guns against annexation, going down in the Democratic convention under the displeasure of the southern slaveholders and the alarm of northern doughfaces. Clay faltered in the campaign. Quibbling qualifying and taking a back track, he went down at the election under the indignation of the abolitionists who polled enough votes for their third ticket to cause his defeat.

Polk lost Tennessee at the polls, and is the only man, with the sole exception of Wilson in 1912, who has been elected without his own state. For several days the national election was in doubt, with the result hanging on a complete count in New York. At last it was found that Polk had carried the state by 5,000—thanks to the Liberty party, which had drawn away more than that number of votes from the "great compromiser." Henry Clay had compromised his last chance for the presidency.

Kenneth recently sent his grandmother Gray the following birthday greeting on that lady's eightieth birthday. Kenneth was born on the same month, so this is what he wrote: "Dear Grandma: I was born the day before you were, Kenneth."

## The Story of Our States

By JONATHAN BRACE XVI.—TENNESSEE



THE history of Tennessee stretches back to the year 1541 when De Soto with his party of Spanish adventurers probably reached the present site of Memphis on the Mississippi. The French under La Salle built a fort here about 1682. The English also laid claim to this territory, including it in the grant to North Carolina. It was not until 1770 that the first permanent settlement was made by James Robertson and this was soon followed by many other settlers from North Carolina. They formed what they called the Washington district, but this was short lived as it was promptly annexed to North Carolina. In 1784 the inhabitants, indignant over North Carolina's attitude toward them, declared their independence and formed the State of Franklin or Frankland. As this secession was not countenanced by North Carolina, for a number of years a state of confusion existed with two sets of officers trying to govern. Meanwhile the settlement suffered severely from hostile Indians and from the Spanish, who still held Louisiana, and controlled the Mississippi river. In 1790 North Carolina finally ceded this territory to the United States. By 1796 the population had increased to over 60,000, so Tennessee was admitted as the sixteenth state of the Union.

At the outbreak of the Civil war, Tennessee joined the Confederacy. In 1866, when the state was readmitted to the Union, there was much disorder during the reconstruction period. This led to the formation of the Ku Klux Klan, the influence of which quickly spread throughout the Southern states. This secret organization took into its own hands the suppression of crime and the administration of justice.

Tennessee contains 42,022 square miles, and is sometimes called the Volunteer state. It is named after its principal river, which is a Cherokee word meaning "Crooked River" or "bend in the river."

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## Record Directory FOR READY REFERENCE

## President and Congress

President, Warren G. Harding, Ohio, Salary \$75,000, with allowance for traveling expenses up to \$25,000 extra, and \$150,000 more for clerk hire and White House expenses—\$250,000 in all. (Subject to change.) Vice-President, Calvin Coolidge, Mass., salary \$21,000. President pro tem of senate, Albert B. Cummins, Iowa. Speaker of House, Frederick H. Gillett of Mass., salary \$12,000. The 68 Senators and 435 Representatives of 67th congress receive \$7,500 salary each, with mileage extra at 30 cents a mile each way, each session, figured on distance between their homes and Washington; also \$125 extra for stationery, newspapers, etc. Each is also allowed \$3,000 a year for clerk hire. Ratio of representation, one member to each 211,817 population. Party Division in 67th Congress: House 201 Rep., 133 Dem., 1 Soc. Senate 69 Rep., 37 Dem.

## The Cabinet

Arranged in order of presidential succession: Sec'y State, Charles E. Hughes, N. Y.; Treasury, Andrew W. Mellon, Pa.; War, John W. Weeks, Mass.; Atty-Gen., Harry M. Daugherty, Ohio; Postmaster-Gen., Will H. Hays, Ind.; Sec'y Navy, Edwin Denby, Mich.; Interior, Albert B. Fall, N. Mex.; Agriculture, Henry C. Wallace, Iowa; Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover, Calif.; Labor, James J. Davis, Pa. Salary of each \$12,000.

## The Supreme Court

Chief Justice, William Howard Taft, salary \$27,000. Associate Justices, salary, \$14,000 each: Jos. McKenna, Calif., (Rep.); Oliver W. Holmes, Mass., (Rep.); Wm. B. Day, Ohio, (Rep.); Willis VanDevanter, Wyo., (Rep.); Mahlon Pitney, N. J., (Rep.); James McReynolds, Tenn., (Dem.); Louis D. Brandeis, Mass., (Dem.); John H. Clarke, Ohio, (Dem.)

## Michigan Government

Governor, Alex. J. Groesbeck, salary, \$5,000; Lieut. Gov., Thomas Reed, salary, \$300.00; Secretary of State, Charles J. Deland, salary, \$2,500.00; State Treas., Frank E. Gorman, salary, \$2,000.00; Auditor Gen., Oranuel B. Fuller, salary \$2,500.00; Attorney Gen., Martin Wiley, salary \$5,000.00; Supt. of Public Instruction, Thomas E. Johnson, salary, \$4,000.00; State Highway Com., Frank J. Rogers, salary \$7,500.00; Senator of District, Aaron Amon, salary \$200.00; Representative of District, David G. Locke, salary, \$500.00; Supreme Court Judges, salary \$700.00; Joseph B. Moore, Joseph H. Steere, Howard West, Grant Fellows, John W. Stone, Geo. M. Clark, John E. Bird, Nelson Sharp.

## County Officers

Judicial, Judge, Edward J. Moinet, salary \$2,500.00; Judge of Probate, James G. Kress, salary, \$2,400.00; Sheriff, A. T. Whitford, salary, fees; Clerk, Berrie Coad, salary, \$1,500; Treas., Sidney Evey, salary, \$1,500; Trns. Atty., Romaine Clark, salary, \$2,000; Register of Deeds, Chas. Bessler, salary, fees; School Com., Howard Potter, salary, \$1,600; Circuit Court Com., Archie McCall, Wm. A. Bahlie, fees; Drain Com., Erva Laycock, salary \$1,500; Coroners, W. K. Ludwig, Dr. Hall, fees.

## City Government

Mayor, Chas. R. Murphy, salary, \$300.00; City Commissioners, John C. Chick, Floyd Glass, A. J. Archer, Philip Craver, salary, \$200.00; City Manager, Wm. E. Reynolds, salary \$5,000.00; City Clerk, Francis C. Hayward, salary \$2,000.00; City Treasurer, D. W. Adams, salary, \$1,800.00; City Attorney, Wm. A. Bahlie, salary, \$1,200.00; Health Officer, Dr. John N. Day, salary, \$1,500.00; Chief of Police, James R. Campbell, salary \$1,700.00; Supervisors, 1st ward, Jesse E. Fuller, 2nd ward, Nicholas E. Sand, 3rd ward, Albert P. Cook, 4th ward, Jacob D. Helman, salary, \$2.00 per day on actual time.

USE THE OLD S. MARSHALL'S CATARRH Snuff

30¢ at all Druggists, or sent prepaid by WILLIAMS MFG. CO. CLEVELAND, O.

Winslow Bros. Drug Store

## Special Sale On Plants

## Closing Out Surplus Stock

Beginning Saturday, June 10  
Ending Saturday, June 17

10c Geraniums . . . 5c  
15c Geraniums, 3 for 25c  
25c and 30c Geraniums 15c

Vines and other plants in proportion.

Miscellaneous plants equally low in price.

This sale is good at both stores, Alma and St. Louis.

D. Kleinhans Floral Co.

## Strand Theater

Sunday, June 11



Priscilla in  
DEAN "Wild Honey"  
Thrills! Excitement!  
Suspense! Action!

Everything that makes a wonderful and entertaining picture

Thursday and Friday



VAUDEVILLE THURSDAY NIGHT